



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, March 10, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers/ZOOM

Commissioners Present: Dr. Rich Salas, Milton Cole, Tiffany Berkenes, Andrew O’Leary, Lonnette Dafney, Shaimaa Aly,
Commissioners Absent: Chandlor Collins
Staff Representative: Hannah Guck (zoom) and Audrey Kennis
Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman
Guests: Althea Holcomb, Orion Nauman (resident)

- **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:36p.m.
- **Roll call**
- **Opportunity for public to address the Commission**
- **Approval of February 2022 Minutes**
 - Commissioner Milton Cole motioned to approve. Commissioner Tiffany Berkenes seconded; minutes approved.
- **Guest Speaker: Althea Holcomb, Director of Human Services**
 - Althea Holcomb introduced herself and informed the Commission about the importance Human Services provides to the West Des Moines area.
- **Staff Report**
 - Speaking engagements – hosting a DEI Think Tank on March 11 five other DEI Directors are creating a space to build community and be more efficient within the Community. As we come together, we’re able to build and create a vision to grow and get involved which builds connections.
 - Audrey will be attending YJI study tables at St. Timothy’s church. This is a place for Commissioners to get involved, be engaged, and connect with youth at Southwoods.
 - Attended the League of Cities DEI Human Rights Directors across the state. They came together and discussed opportunities, legislation and how we can connect more by showcasing interested.
 - Received a request for a proclamation for Asian Pacific Heritage month in May. Is the commission interested and willing to engage in writing the proclamation? Milton motioned Shaimaa seconded.
- **Council Report**
 - WDM Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations - spread the word and get those submitted to the Chamber and make sure there is diversity among the group.
- **Report from Commissioners on recent activities**
 - No new calls/voicemails
 - Tiffany shared of a couple groups (Jackie Crawford) involved with WDM Community Equity conversations group (1st Monday of every month). Uniting for equity and justice, they meet Saturday at Palmers Deli.

- **Old Business**
 - **Update on Sponsorships**
 - Audrey updated the Commissioners regarding the amount we've sponsored at this moment.
 - Salas removed a motion to further discuss the removal of sponsorship to Iowa Safe Schools due to the Governors stance on LGBTQ youth. A few Commissioners disagreed with having the Governor as a representation of at the "Iowa Safe Schools by the Governor's Youth Conference" within the title. Commissioners agreed. Seconded by Milton
 - Further discussion on how to fund Iowa safe schools will be discussed at a later date.
- **New Business**
 - **Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Symposium Sponsorship Request**
 - Audrey will get pricing for a co-sponsorship. Salas moved to sponsor \$500.00 for the Des Moines Civil Human Rights. Shaimaa seconded.
 - **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Proclamation (May 2022)**
 - Audrey will be writing a proclamation.
 - **Attendance for Commissioners**
 - Commissioners discussed the importance of being consistent with meeting each month.
 - **Budget Update**
- **Other**
 - Commissioners discussed the current devastation of Ukraine & how we can help or work with local WDM residents who have family members living in Ukraine. We can reach out and help international refugees with available programs.
 - Option of Doctors without borders
 - There will be a vigil for Ukraine at the Jamie Hurd Amphitheatre.
- **Next meeting date: April 14, 2022**

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:10pm. Commissioner Rich moved to adjourn; Commissioner Lonnie seconded.

Minutes by: Hannah Guck, Staff Representative